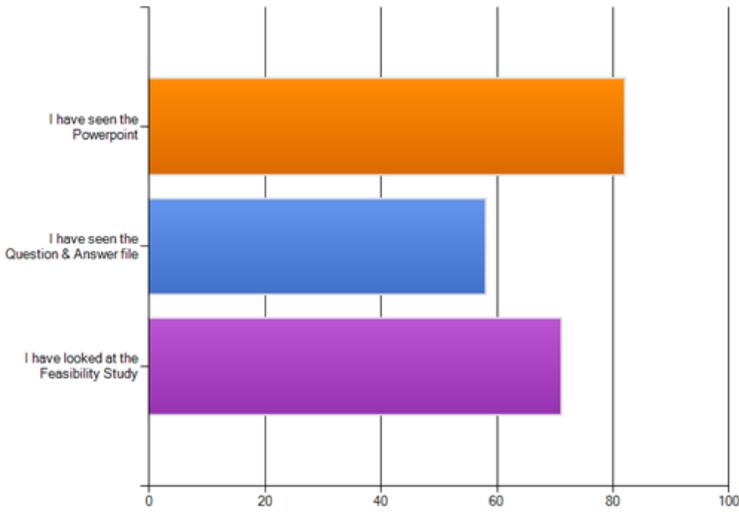


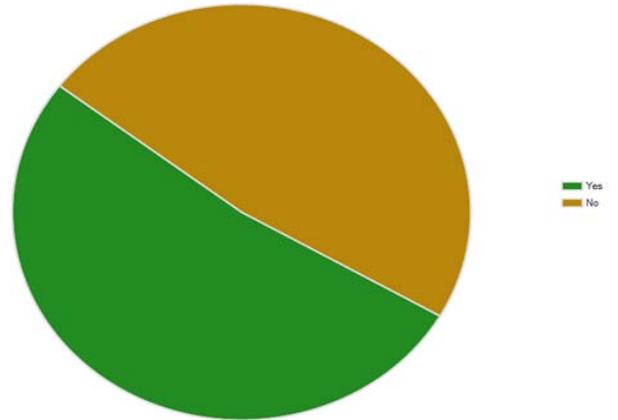
Response Summary and Comments

Total Started Survey: 121
 Total Completed Survey: 91 (75.2%)

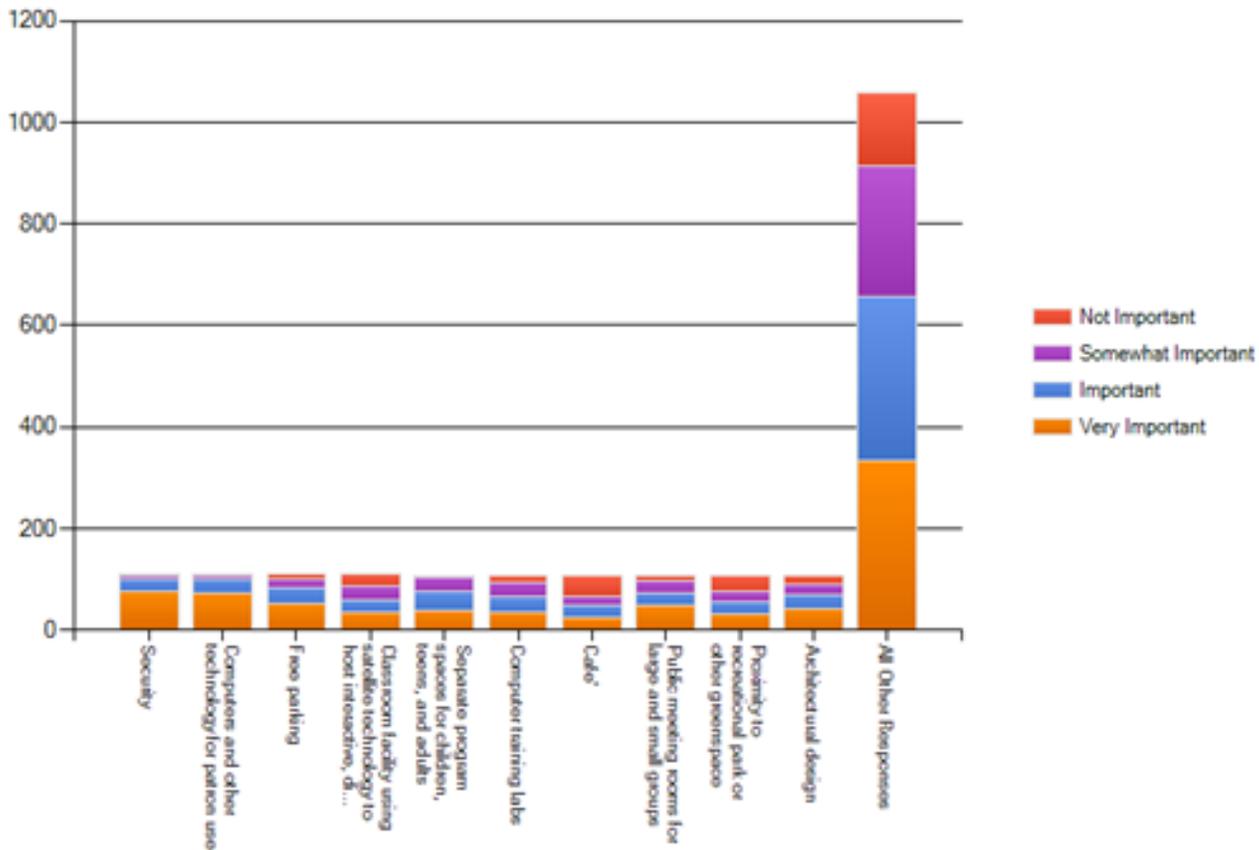
Have you looked at the information concerning the River Center Branch Library Construction Project, posted on the Library's website?



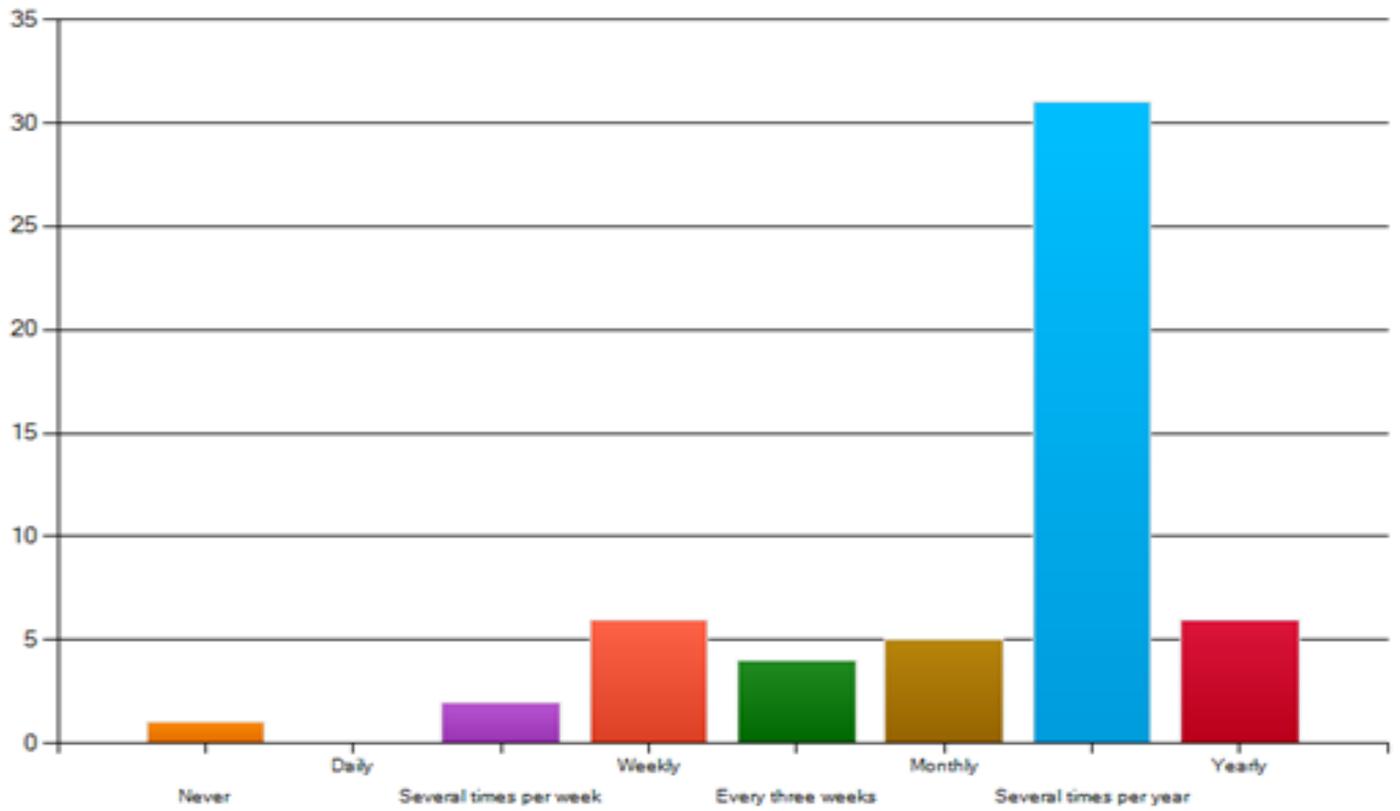
Do you visit the River Center Branch Library now?



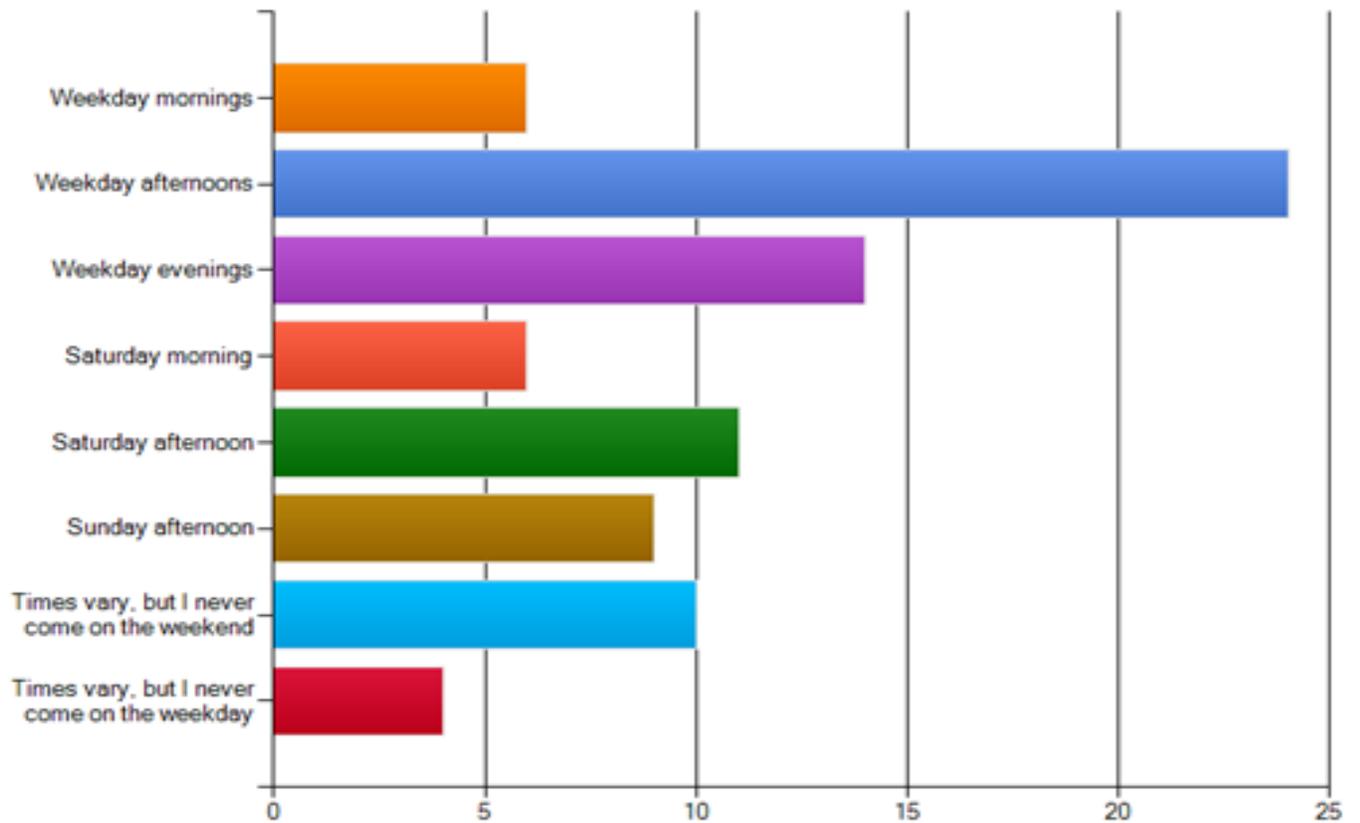
Some of the following features are currently available. Others may be added to the River Center Branch Library in the future. Please rate the importance of the following features.



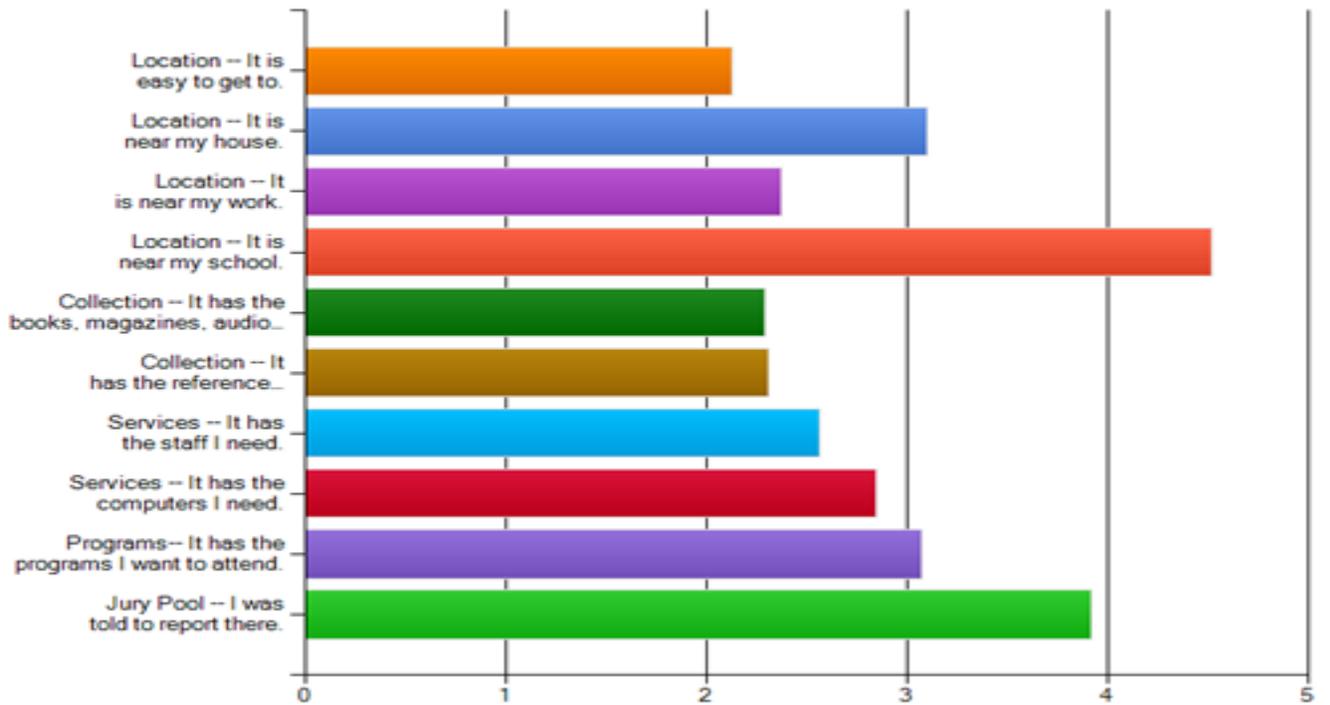
How frequently do you visit the River Center Branch Library? Please check the answer that best describes your visits.



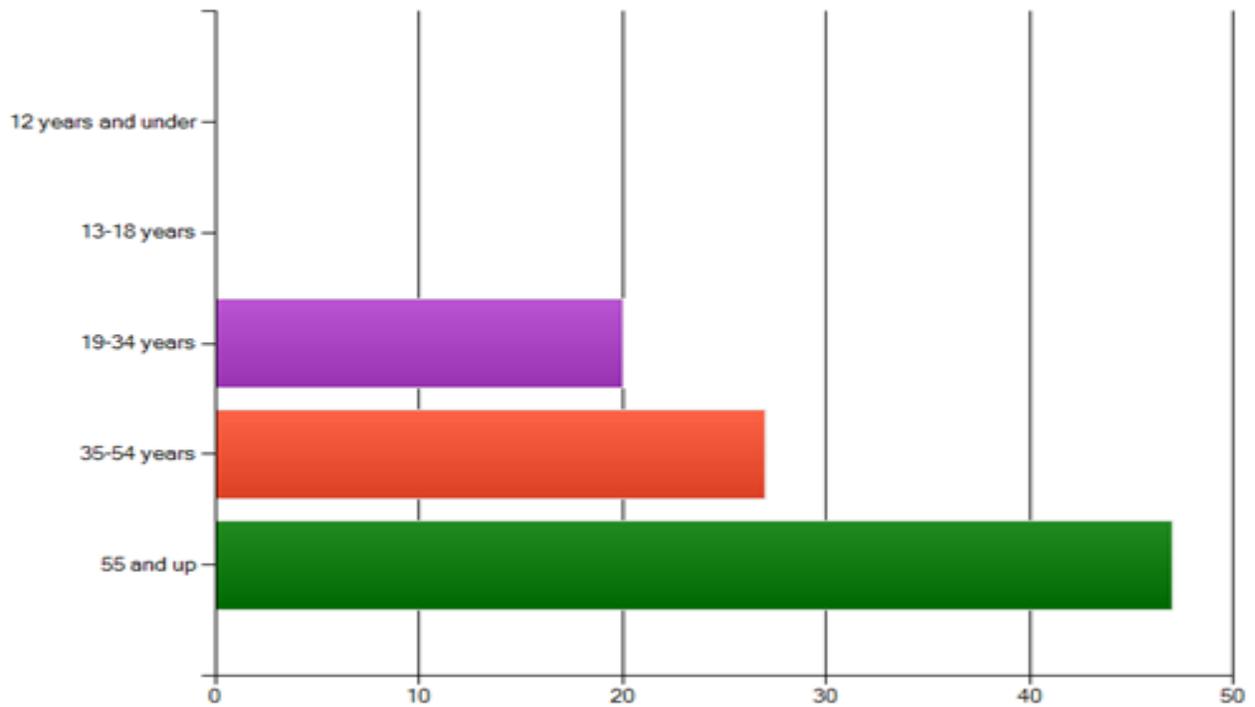
At what time of day do you visit the River Center Branch Library? Please check all that apply.



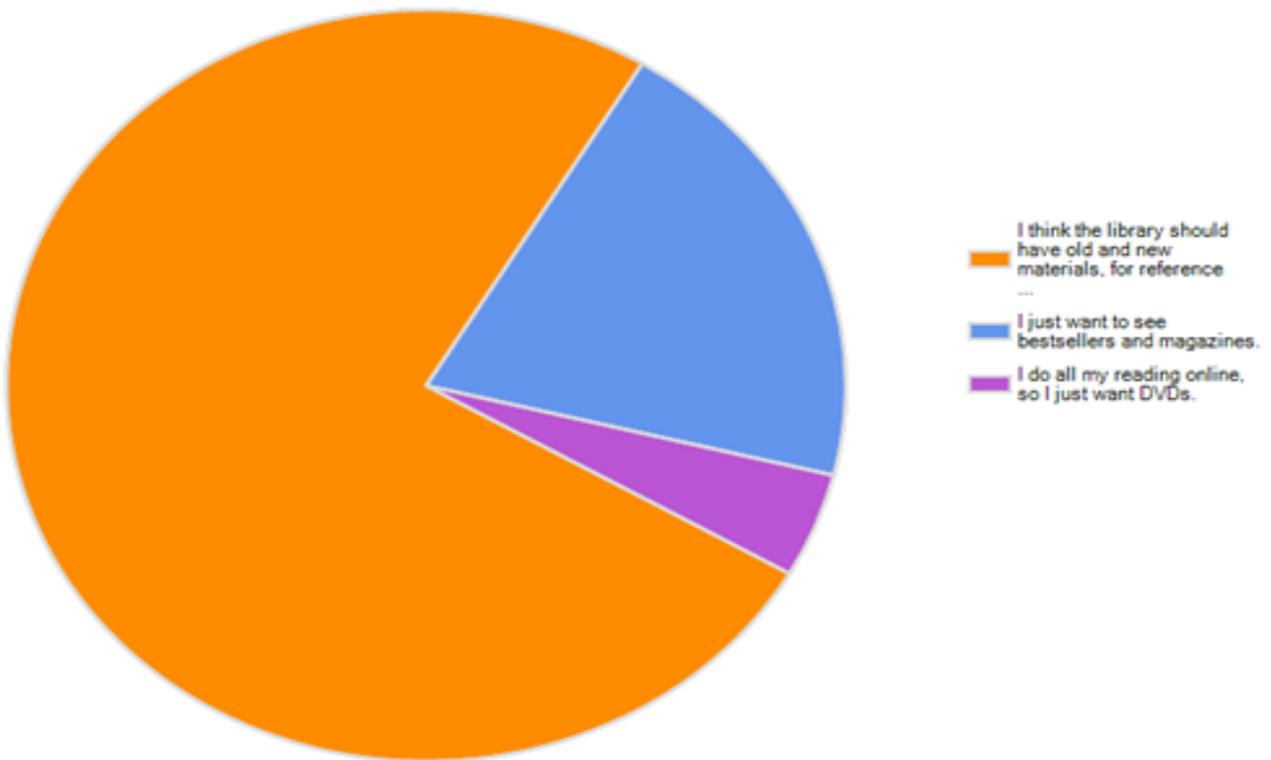
Why do you visit the River Center Branch Library?



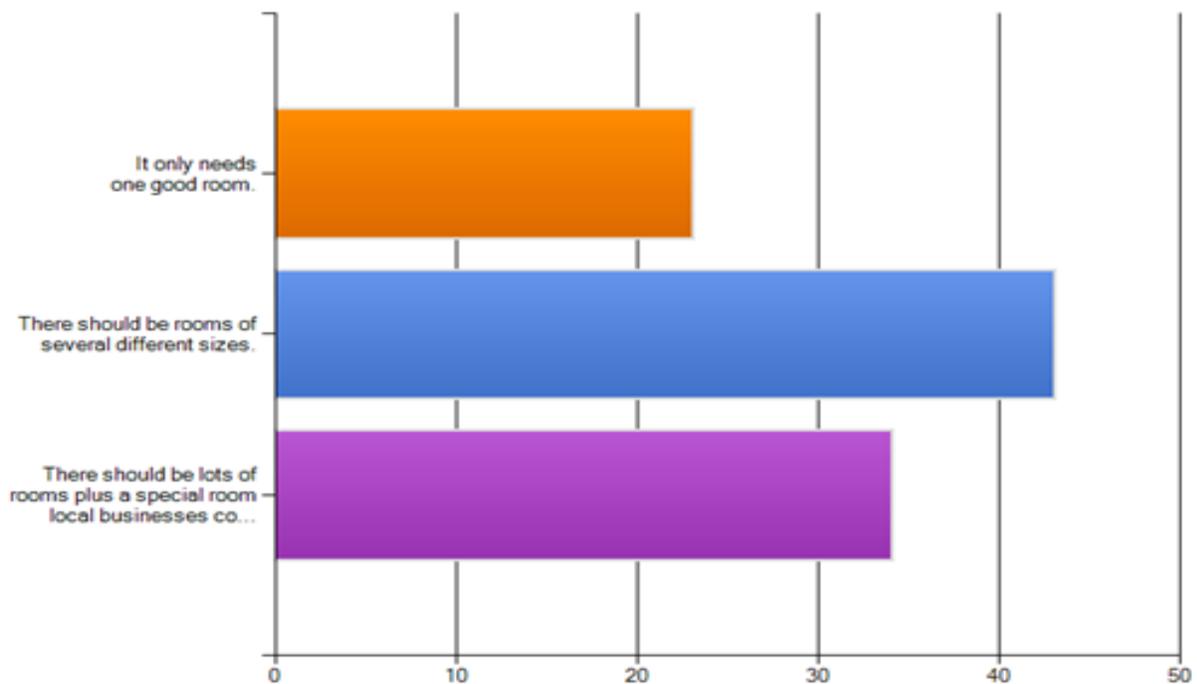
What is your age?



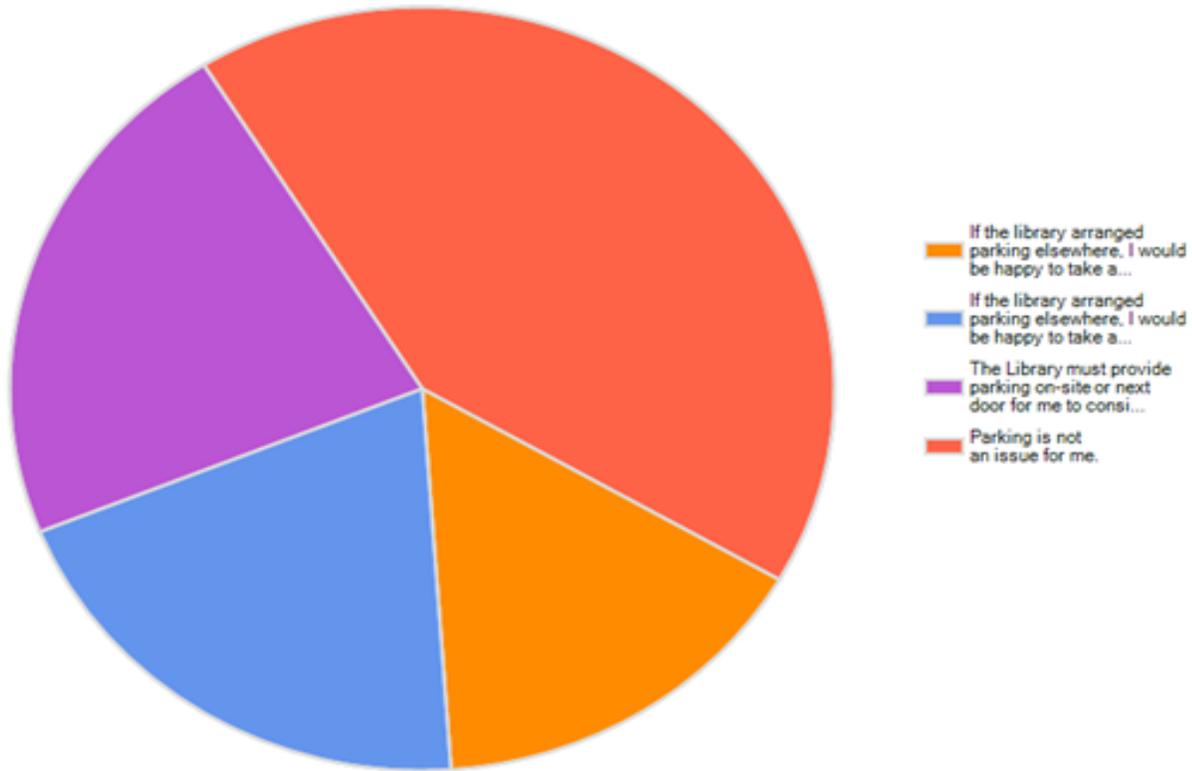
Currently, the River Center Branch Library houses books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks for all ages. Do you think the Library should focus on just the most recent materials in each category, or maintain a broader collection?



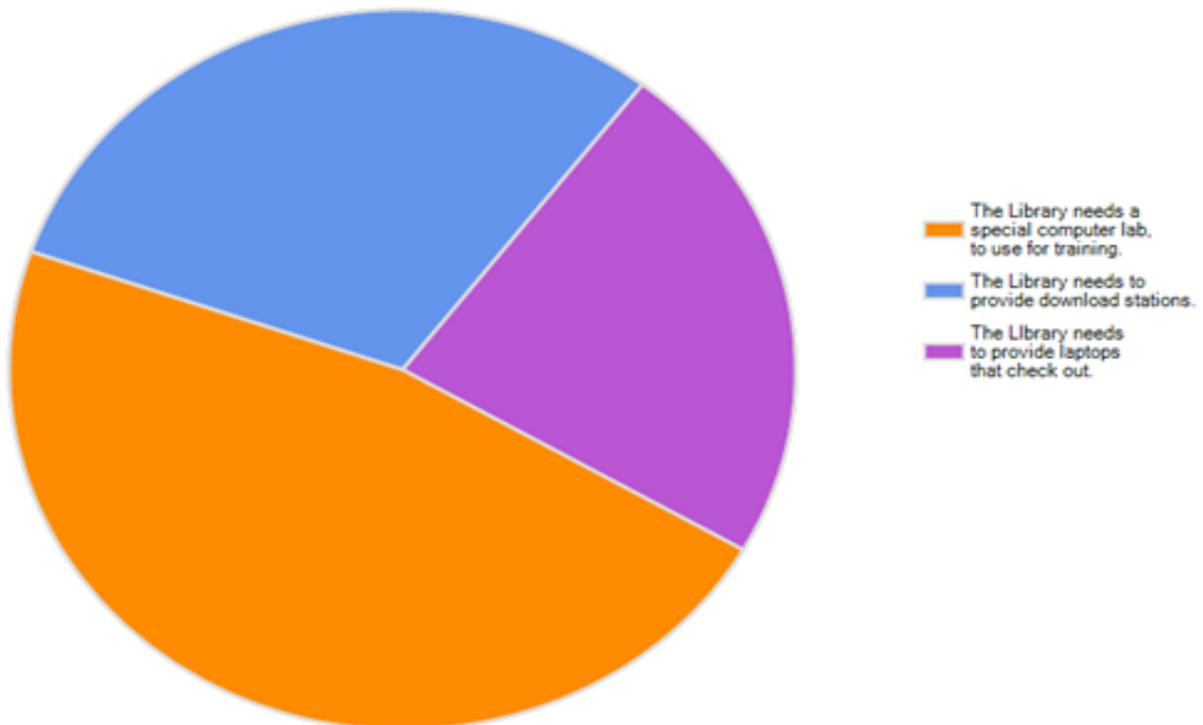
The lack of space for public meetings and free library programs is a frequent complaint. How many meeting rooms do you think should be included in the new River Center Branch Library?



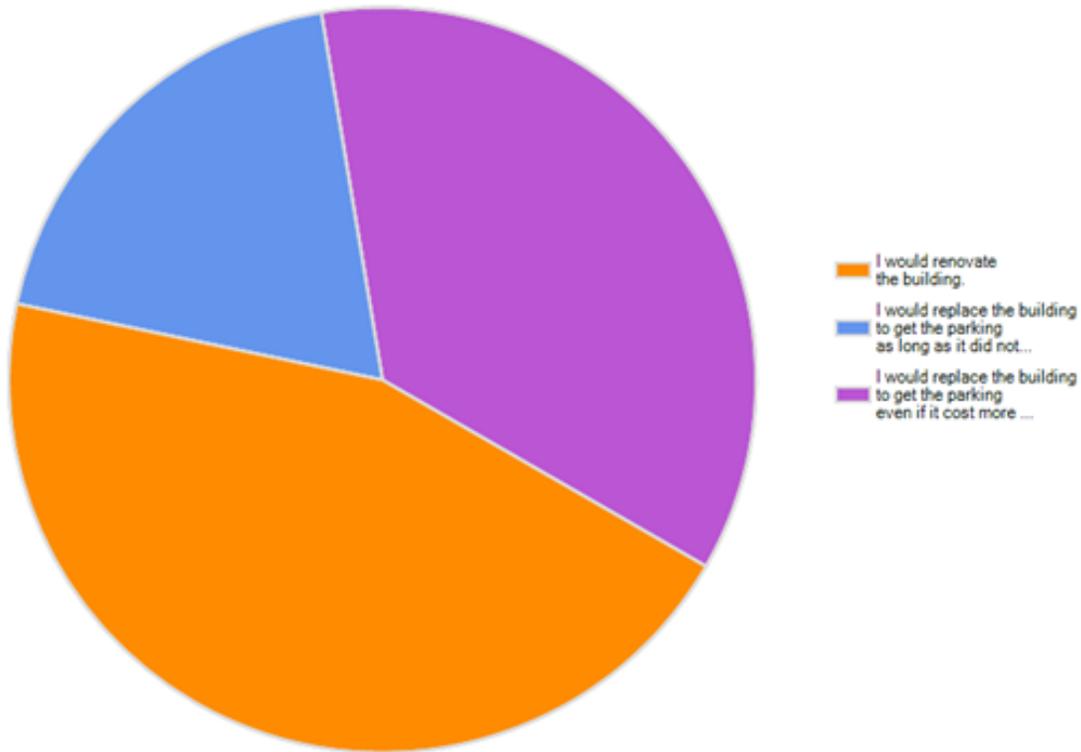
Whatever size the River Center Branch building ultimately becomes, parking remains an issue. Please indicate your preference for parking.



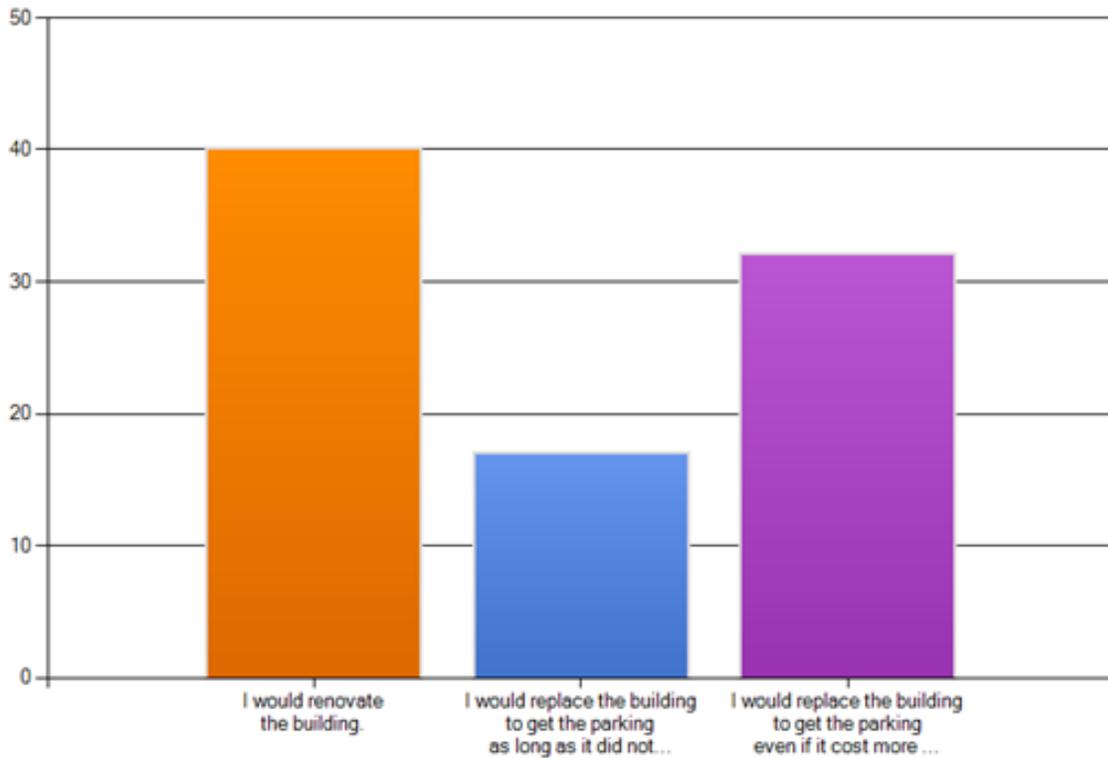
All East Baton Rouge Parish Library branches now offer Wi-Fi as well as free PCs with access to the Internet for public use. Each branch also has special computers for the blind and visually handicapped, and AWE Early Learning Stations for the very young. Does the River Center Branch need anything else?



If you had to choose between renovating the building and replacing it to obtain a parking solution, which would you chose?



If you had to choose between renovating the building and replacing it to obtain a parking solution, which would you chose?



COMMENTS from Online Survey; exactly as received.

1. Use of first floor space and restrooms should be available during downtown public events such as live after 5, earth fest, etc.

2. I do not approve constructing a newbuilding at the Riverfront location at all. It is not needed and we should not spend the \$\$\$ to do so.

The library needs to conserve its resources, for the taxpayers will remember and be reminded of what you are doing the next time you seek a renewal of property taxes to support the library system. It is not the responsibility of the library to act as host for jurors. Doing so is a burden you must bear because of the library's location. Should you wish to offer library services to jurors in the parish, a bookmobile would suffice. Libraries need to be near where people reside, not near where they work. Downtown Baton Rouge is a location where people go to work, and in the evenings, go to be entertained. Following your philosophy, New Orleans should have a library on Bourbon Street. In my opinion, the downtown library more than suffices as it exists, where it exists. In fact, the former downtown library, your original location now housing I believe, the United Way offices, would have made a fine library to this day had it been retained. The Board will regret investing more than maintenance funds on a downtown library. Please don't do so.

4. My personal experience with the library has been great as the librarian for a downtown school. I don't see the need for parking because I think the library has walking patrons. I also saw the library as underutilized. I agree that the building design is not functional (and why was that allowed to happen?) I think it is great as a downtown, day time, walking patron facility. I think there is plenty of room, especially after move to Goodwood. I am for renovation.

5. this will be an enormous asset to downtown baton rouge and it's employees, residents and visitors!

6. We need to be thinking about growing the future of our community with projects like this.. not living in the past.

7. Renovate or move for access, space, and services needed for actual patrons of the DOWNTOWN BRANCH library. Trying to make this the second main library or a public entertainment destination is a gross waste of library resources.

The whole issue of this "downtown library" is much too important to rely on a few words. We, as taxpayers feel that you (library board) are attempting to "force a new library downtown- irrardless of the majority of Baton Rouge taxpayers being against a new library. Statistics clearly show that this branch ranks 11th (out of 13) in terms of usage. Please don't build this as a new facility just to accomodate the mayor and downtown development groups. We the taxpayers had spoken out several times before stating emphatically "no new library downtown."

9. Think big!

10. Bigger is not better in this location--be selective, be special! Renovate the handsome building. Concentrate on 1.a collection to appeal to downtown professionals 2. providing a cozy children's nook 3. a multi-use meeting room for small to medium groups 4. safety features (but I can't believe that staircase is a hazard) 5. renovating restrooms 6. offering creative programming on regular basis for various age groups and interests. Make this EXISTING building a "little gem"! There is LOTS of unused space. And find some nearby parking spaces. Don't waste our money....

11. The Goodwood Branch needs to be replaced (at the same Goodwood location) before spending funds on any other branch.

12. Comparisons are made with major libraries around the world. B.R is NOT in that class; the comparisons are not legitimate. Most of those libraries have tremendouns amounts of "open", unused space. Space is expensive. It make no sense to have "reading" space to accomodate 400 people if there are regularly only 40 patrons who actually use reference materials and need a place to work. Both teh renovation and the expansion reveal a lot of this "open" space. The PPS has a heading with a picture of the current staircase, labeled "Monumental Stairs" as if this is a detractant, or a major cause for concern. Au Contraire, most libraries I have seen showcase theri stairway; in fact, these same planners show us a new expansmion that is mostly stairway, and a new building which is wrapped in a really monumental stairway. I feel that one the new Court building opens, a new usability study (get a cheapo- use student researchers from LSU or SU to plan and complete it for their theses work) should be conducted. I'll bet the numbers drop. The charts rendered in this feasibility study belie the fact that five or six downtown events impact library use. That's not enough to command a new library be built.

13. The River Center Branch library needs to look upon some type of green space. One floor should be devoted to quiet, individual study with power connections to charge private laptops. Each floor needs an enclosed lobby area by the elevators to keep patrons from using phones in the reading and activity areas.

14. Downtown deserves a library just like every other part of town. Government agencies are sending people to the library to get

access to materials online (mine does). Computers and training are vital.

15. Demographics are changing and the city can no longer turn its back on downtown. New residents and business are moving to downtown and they deserve to use an iconic library.
16. With the current revitalization occurring downtown I think it best to a renovation that not only meets current expectations but has the flexibility to meet future and unforeseen demands as well
17. You have done a good job of getting information out to the public. I believe parking is such a huge issue, that I believe that creating parking next door or building a new library with parking underneath is essential to increased usage. Your points about Eden Park and other new libraries are compelling. After reading all the material you have presented, I am more in favor of a new structure. We need to dream big!
18. The opportunity to build a modern, beautiful library should be taken advantage of.
19. I hope the projected cost for a full replacement is accurate. If so, it would be ridiculous NOT to spend \$3 million more to get so much more.
20. Based on low usage this library should only receive minimal restoration.
21. Parking is the biggest issue for this library.
22. I believe the River Center Library is being used as a political football to build something really not needed downtown. I think we need a branch library in proportion to the use data and not try to build a monument to downtown.
23. A new building would be a boon to the city-parish and an attraction to visitors. The downtown area could host architectural tours and a number of other events.
24. Do the right thing and invest in downtown. You'll be glad you did in the long run. Thanks.
25. Build it and they will come. We should have a downtown to be proud of.
26. This might sound weird, but, some yoga mats for adults to lounge on while reading would be awesome
27. during decreasing sales taxes for ebr, tighten your belt like your income source-- the taxpayer; and renovate!
28. Renovate only and use money elsewhere throughout the system.
29. I would use the downtown library if it had parking.
30. If the library were to become a destination library downtown, those who work down here would consider using it and more frequently.
31. The library should move away from brick-and-mortar issues, and become a state of art repository/depository of info for the citizens of the parish. if the library board wants to maintain the downtown branch, place all administrative personnel there, use it as meetings rooms for citizens and patrons, and otherwise partner with LSU and SU and its library science programs. The library branches should focus on archival retention and computer based information, including putting on-line its collections as permitted by copyright laws. It should also place all its collections/books/periodicals about Baton Rouge and other local history completely on-line at its website, similar to the collections at LSU's Middleton Library. The present use of the library is its young adult collection and its free public computers. the library board should emphasize that, rather than building new edifices to itself.
32. The timeline on renovation vs. reconstruction appears inaccurate. To say complete demolition and reconstruction will take the same amount of time as renovation is askew. I think it is important to preserve our buildings, it is a greener approach. Put in some new windows, renovate the interior, and don't focus on computers. In 5-10 years the personal computing power of 80% of our population will be handheld like a cell phone. I would start a foundation with excess funds to be able to renovate every 20 years. Because of all of this press I will check out the library. I wish your organization the best in the future.

33. Please include a music reference center (sheet music), cafe, rooftop garden, historic rehabilitation resource center, garden resource center, clean restrooms, career center, meeting rooms, art and design resources, law resources
-
34. I work downtown and utilize the library for research or for my child to spend time in the childrens area reading - but I don't check out books. I live in another parish but I'm considering moving to BR. Progressive towns that put their money in the right places (culture and literacy) are attractive to me. Plus, downtown businesses pay a lot of taxes. Its their library. Give them what they need. Also, the new schools there will need a new library with a current and up-to-date collection with the best technology has to offer. Thanks.
-
35. The Library can be the city's jewel and become the iconic structure for the baton rouge library system
-
36. build a new state of the art facility please
-
37. Main library should be downtown but since that's not going to happen, the downtown library should be as nice as possible. REBUILD!!
-
38. Parking is the issue; otherwise renovate
-
39. provide a bike rack and have a bus stop to address parking concerns.
-
40. It's time BR joined other progressive cities and built a spectacular library downtown. Don't let the old snarks have their way with thus one. They already have their precious Goodwood bldg.
- The river center branch needs to cater to the needs of a transient populcation. Every day, tens of thousands come and go from downtown. The programing must be beneficial to these patrons. Give them a coffee bar, a snack bar, and a multimedia experience. Let them catch up on their personal e-mail/internet while on their lunch. Host non-profit meetings where the in-house food vendor can provide food and drinks. Have special programing around the various events that take place downtown - i.e. classes on jazz music when wynton marsalis plays at Sunday in the Park. Or host an Art Exhibit when Forum 35 has the Art Melt, or better yet, teach art during that week. Draw people into a place that not only has purpose and function, but inspires creativity and participation. Make it a place people want to be!
-
42. Downtown library patrons were promised a new library in 2005 when the tax was renewed. The only debate was over whether it would be the Main Library or not. I attended meetings then, and we have waited while the new Fairview branch moved ahead of downtown in priority although it was not part of the master plan. It's past time to build downtown a new Library. I don't understand the opposition...we have never fought any part of the community that wanted a Library and had as much support.
-
43. I would love to see a theatre for film viewing added on that would allow special film screenings as well as Q&As with both filmmakers and film historians. This would be especially beneficial with Baton Rouge being a popular location for film and television production.
-
44. Downtown library is like the ugly step-child. I'm not requesting a palace, but a decent facility would be appreciated.
-
45. It feels like a dungeon inside right now, that's one of several reasons no one goes there. Build something new, offer unique electronic resources that business, government, and non-profit would utilize and market the Hell out of it. The River Center branch has the largest captive population in the region between the hours of 8AM and 5PM Monday through Friday, take advantage of it!
-
46. Simple renovation in my mind is NOT an option. EXPAND or BUILD ANEW!
-
47. If you have to pay more than 3mil for parking, i would be happy to pay \$1 flat rate for parking until it is paid for.
-
48. I feel River Center Branch is not used by the general population as other branches are. The evenings and weekends are when the other branches are used to a greater extent. The downtown library is best for those who work in the downtown area. Even then the time to use a library is usually found in the evenings & on weekends. The library should spend money that would go to a little-used larger downtown library to add to the library collections. Those who live in the downtown area would still be within a mile of the new Carver Branch library.
-
49. I think it is a pork-barrel project promoted soley for the benefit of special. I think the current library is sufficient and needs only minor maintenance.

50. Another architectural design should be used than the one being considered

51. No to re-building!!!! Renovate only!!!!

52. Renovate only because used by limited residents.

53. The answer to #12 is NO. There is no need to spend \$19 million to tear down and rebuild a library which has such a small circulation total and even smaller patron total, especially once the Jurors will no longer be using it. Just renovate!

54. Use the adjacent municipal building parking lot after hours

55. I don't want the main library located at the river center.

I use the Goodwood Library mostly. I have to drive 10 minutes to get to it. The Carver Branch is so close to downtown that I think this would be as easy to access as the Goodwood Library is for me. It seems like a waste of money to pour it into a building that has low usage. Would rather you spend the money on something more residents of the parish could use--I don't follow the controversy on the River Center Branch too closely, but I am a business person, and know that if I had \$19 mill to spend, I would never use it to rebuild something that is not well used anyway. I would probably put more into the main branch to have it as a shining star in the system rather than just a good-looking main library. Why not use Trahan's design for Goodwood? That way the design would have space to breathe and be seen. Cramming it into downtown doesn't make sense.

56. Goodwood is centrally located to the parish residents, and not as scary to visit at night as downtown is. There are nights downtown when it is vacant and very scary. The parking garages are very scary too when you're the only one walking in them. I would say use as little money as possible to do what has to be done to River Center branch, but nothing excessive. Also, I don't know Mr. Tom Dubos, but it seems like he is very interested in the library. Why would you not let someone like him, who represents neighborhood associations, on the board. It is hard enough to find interested board members anyway who are willing to attend all meetings. It is not difficult to see through the transparent efforts of the board to stack it as opposed to opening it up to people of various opinions. What I have read in The Advocate is almost comical. The survey also didn't give me choices I would have picked on some of the questions.

It is stupid to spend some \$20million or so on that almost unused facility. Some of the items cited as needs such as elevator controls can be corrected with a new control system. Electrical service and wiring can be upgraded without major replacement.

57. The workers downtown don't need a local library and should not be counted in the usage, only local residents. Schedule a meeting where the general public can gain access not at 530 downtown. That is a stacked deck. You are proposing a no vote in 2015. I voted yes at the last tax election, but never again for the tax and spend agenda of this board.

58. Relocate it to where there can be adjacent surface parking.

59. Other areas need expansion before the River Center

I am not in favor of enlarging or rebuilding this building. I feel that this is being done strictly under the influence of those people supporting downtown development and without the consideration and input of library patrons in other areas of the parish -- many of who oppose this.

This survey is skewed in that it asks leading questions, or provides only certain answers. Some of my answers did not fit into any of the answers provided in the survey. That is why this survey would have to be looked upon as not being inclusive, and thus invalid.

62. Parking should not be the driving force for library decisions; there are many options downtown already. Instead, concentrate on needed services and facilities.

63. It should not become the main library

64. Please post all other surveys for libraries in system.

This branch should reflect the population and the library usage of said population. It is too large now. I prefer Carver due to the lack of parking Downtown. The library should be moved far far away from its present location IF it is to serve the area as opposed to being simply a showplace waste of taxpayers money simply to have a building for people to look at. The library is closed at EVERY street carnival which occurs downtown and Mr. Farrar indicates that this will continue to be the practice. I simply do not want to waste valuable tax dollars to have a closed building for downtown visitors to gawk at and not use. Who cares where visitors go when attending parades, arts festivals etc. The library is CLOSED for such events. And to rebuild with

parking underneath to a branch which is underutilized is ludicrous. This simply will allow one more parking lot for Court attendees to park in (free or not , they will park there...and run by the library to get a free token saying that they WERE in the library. Shame shame on the LBOC for continuing this farce. Build elsewhere, think about the old Godchaux's property , for example... the center of BR downtown is ridiculous (unless you are a property owner downtown and you want that showplace...and I do believe that this is a conflict of interest , eh? If Downtowner want a neighborhood library , they certainly deserve one but why build such extravagances when we had to FIGHT to get places like Eden Park be bigger than a broom closet. BTW, I DO go in River CENter on occasion , simply to try to keep an open mind about the need for such a facility. It is underutilized evrytime I go in. Where are all those neighbors who are clamoring for a new huge library? And I am soooooo tired of the folks who are clamoring for accountability from the LBOC , being called a bunch of old racists. SHame , again, on the youngsters who are so hip that they erroneously namecall so that they can get their way. We taxpayers have to pay for and live with the decisions we make (though it appears that I don't count for very much because I do not agree with the latest plants in the LBOC) and this insistent push to downtown is hard to stomach. The waste of resources that COULD and SHOULD be spread around to the ENTIRE City Parish. SHame shame shame on this insatiable Downtown push. I take NO pride in the groovy LBOC youngsters who are buying in to all of this. AND the choices offerred in this survey are not feasible for MY tax dollars.

- 66. This library should provide basic services for those few downtown residents or workers who might occasionally use it. It will no longer be used by jury pools, and should not provide loitering space for those who are not there for legitimate library activities . A showplace library downtown is a gross misuse of the taxpayers' money.
- 67. Our taxpayer funds need to be spent wisely. Coleman Brown has a plan that would provide a completely renovated structure at a fraction of the cost you suggest. The LBC has betrayed our trust.
- 68. Thanks for finally doing something about the Centroplex

Zip codes of respondents:

